

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8 and 9 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8 and 9 are amended and claims 7 and 10 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited therein. No new matter is added.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner Nguyen in the April 17, 2008 telephone interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

Claims 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed towards non-statutory subject matter. The rejection of canceled claim 10 is moot and the rejection of claims 8 and 9 is respectfully traversed.

As argued during the telephone interview, claims 8 and 9 are directed to a "tangible control unit containing a terminal control computer program." Support for these features can be found in the specification, for example, at paragraph [0061] and Fig. 1. Applicants thus respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 1-3 and 5-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Kimball (U.S. Patent No. 5,953,322) in view of Zhang et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,953,407). The rejection of canceled claims 7 and 10 is moot, and the rejection of claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8 and 9 is respectfully traversed.

Kimball and Zhang, alone or in a permissible combination, do not teach or suggest every claimed feature of independent claims 1, 3, 5 and 7-10. As argued during the telephone interview, Kimball and Zhang do not teach or suggest a single telephone terminal that includes:

(a) an audio input/output path capable of inputting/outputting audio signals from/to an outside source or an Internet terminal, through an Internet network, as recited in independent claims 1, and as similarly recited in independent claims 3, 5, 8 and 9;

(b) a switch device for switching an output destination of audio signals based on audio input from the transmitter/receiver, as recited in independent claims 1, 3 and 5, and as similarly recited in independent claims 8 and 9; and

(c) a telephone call or Internet notification device that notifies through the telephone terminal of reception of an incoming call from the telephone line network "when ... the output destination and the input source of audio signals have been switched to the audio input/output path by the switch device," as recited in independent claims 1, 3 and 5, and as similarly recited in claim 8; and an Internet call notification process that notifies through the telephone terminal of the nature of a control signal "when ... the output destination and the input source of audio signals have been switched to the telephone line network in the switching process," as recited in independent claim 9 (emphasis added).

The Office Action asserts that Kimball teaches these features at Fig. 1 (see Office Action, page 3). However, this figure merely discloses multiple devices such as a set of telephones 80, 82, 90 and 92 that allegedly (collectively) disclose the claimed features recited above. These features do not enable Internet calls using a known telephone terminal (see Applicants' specification, paragraph [0011]). In other words, Fig. 1 of Kimball does not disclose one telephone terminal that includes the claimed audio input/output path, switch device, and telephone call notification device of independent claims 1, 3, 5, 8 and 9.

Further, Zhang does not remedy Kimball's deficiencies. Zhang is applied by the Office Action only for its alleged teaching of a telephone call notification device for notifying reception of an incoming call (see Office Action, page 3).

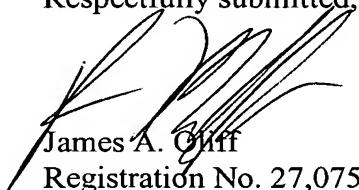
Therefore, for at least these reasons, independent claims 1, 3, 5, 8 and 9 are patentable over the alleged combination of Kimball and Zhang. Claims 2 and 6, which depend from claims 1 and 5, respectively, are also patentable for at least their dependency on independent

claims 1 and 5, as well as for the additional features they recite. Applicants thus respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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Date: April 18, 2008

Attachment:

Petition for Extension of Time
Request for Continued Examination (RCE)

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